Children and Women — The Trojan Horse Against Mass Poverty?

Address by
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In an address to the 1993 International Development Conference, held in Washington, D.C. on 11 January 1993, UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant argues that the world is on the threshold of being able to vastly accelerate human development and overcome the worst manifestations of poverty affecting over 1 billion people today. The conference's theme was 'Overcoming Poverty — Global Priority'.

After comparing the current situation to that prevailing on the eve of the green revolution in Asia in the 1960s, he says that a similar breakthrough is possible now "on a much broader front, encompassing basic education, primary health care, water supply and sanitation, family planning and gender equity, as well as food production, and covering a much wider geographical area..."

"*Children and women can be our Trojan Horse for attacking the citadel of poverty, for undergirding democracy, dramatically slowing population growth and accelerating economic development,*" he states, calling on the United States to play a role of "global moral leadership." Using baseball terminology, he concludes that "the bases are loaded" and the United States now has an opportunity to hit a "grand slam" in the global effort against poverty's worst aspects, if it acts expeditiously in the coming period. In particular, he calls on the U.S. Government to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child; implement its programme of action for children in a bipartisan fashion and without delay; increase to 20 per cent the proportion of its development assistance devoted to priority human needs; push for major African debt relief; and strengthen its commitment to the United Nations as the "global village's central vehicle for development cooperation and safeguarding the peace."

Children and Women — The Trojan Horse Against Mass Poverty?

Permit me to begin with a few friendly provocations:

- **First**, I would suggest that nobody — not the West, not the United States, nobody — "won the cold war." No one emerges unscathed, unblemished or unburdened from half a century of bitter ideological warfare, near-bankrupting arms races, distorted economies and global competition that made cooperation to solve urgent global problems extremely difficult and often virtually impossible.
- **Second**, I would argue that in our haste to proclaim the victory of the ideas of democracy and free markets — the 'end of history' — we are doing these powerful ideas a profound disservice. Democracy, once defined as 'liberty plus groceries', clearly has to take care of much unfinished business on both scores. As my friend Mahbub ul Haq said recently, "Markets are not very friendly to the poor ... either nationally or internationally." The problems that challenge and vex us on the threshold of the 21st century require a radical reordering of priorities, a sea change in the habits, values and lifestyles of all humankind — not a reliance on 'business as usual'.
- **Third**, in spite of the gravity of the problems we face, I would venture to say that we have made more global human progress in the last 50 years than in the previous 2,000, to the point that three quarters of the world's population now enjoy the basics of a life of dignity, productivity and health — progress achieved while much of the world freed itself from colonialism, and while respect for human and political rights expanded dramatically. Since the Second World War, average real incomes in the developing world have more than doubled; life expectancy has increased by about a third; infant and child death rates have been more than cut in half; the proportion of the developing world's children starting school has risen from less than

half to more than three quarters (despite a doubling of population); and the percentage of rural families with access to safe water has risen from less than 10 per cent to almost 60 per cent. What we have *not* seen, however, is the automatic trickling down of economic and technological advances to the world's more than 1 billion poor, whose numbers continue to grow at roughly the rate of population growth. The most obscene manifestation of this failure is the 35,000 child deaths each day, two thirds from causes now readily preventable at low financial cost.

- **Fourth**, the problem is not that we have tried to eradicate global poverty or even its worst symptoms, and failed; it is that *no serious and concerted attempt has ever been made*. The respectable achievements of recent decades in parts of the world have come about in spite of the generally low priority and meagre resources allocated to human development — almost as an afterthought of a world preoccupied with other concerns. Now that the cold war is over we can try — *for the first time*.

- **Fifth**, rather than requiring several generations of effort and astronomical economic resources, it is now actually possible to provide virtually every man, woman and child on earth with adequate food, clean water, safe sanitation, primary health care, family planning, and basic education — *by the end of the century and at an affordable price*. Thanks to recent advances in science and technology, and to the recent and ongoing revolution in communications and social mobilization, we estimate that an additional US$25 billion per year is all that would be needed to achieve this massive and truly historic breakthrough — two thirds of that amount from the developing countries themselves and one third from the industrial world. The United States' share of such an effort would be an additional US$2 billion a year — a significant sum but less than what we Americans spend *monthly* on beer — and most, probably all, of this could be obtained through restructuring existing official development aid (ODA) flows.

- **Sixth**, far from taking away from much-needed efforts to slow population growth, spur environmentally sustainable development, improve equality for women, and strengthen democracy, an all-out assault on poverty's worst manifestations is now a *precondition* for resolving these burning issues of our times. It is no

coincidence that countries with the highest illiteracy and child death rates also have the highest birth rates. Overcoming the worst aspects of poverty would accelerate progress on all these fronts simultaneously and sharply lower the costs involved.

- **Seventh**, perhaps it is as the Bible says: "A little child shall lead them". We need to put children first, paying special attention to the girl child; we need to give children's essential needs a 'first call' on society's resources, whether times are good or bad. If you think about it for a minute, this simple principle endorsed by the world's leaders at the 1990 World Summit for Children has vast revolutionary potential. ***Children and women can be our Trojan Horse for attacking the citadel of poverty, for undergirding democracy, dramatically slowing population growth and accelerating economic development.***
- **Eighth** and final provocation: If the United States were to provide genuine leadership, including, importantly, at the presidential level, a global effort to overcome those worst aspects of poverty identified at the 1990 World Summit for Children and at the 1992 Earth Summit, it would do more good, for more people, more quickly, at a lower cost, than through any other conceivable global undertaking in this era.

You will forgive me for framing these thoughts as provocations; judging from the rich and thoughtful agenda you have ahead of you at this important conference, it is not *you* who need to be provoked. These challenges, of course, face us all — all of us who are concerned about the perverse persistence of poverty as we approach the 21st century. I commend you on your choice of theme for this conference, for it places you on the cutting edge of what is possible in these critical times. Coming on the eve of the inauguration of a new U.S. Administration, this conference can help inaugurate a new and much-needed movement to end the disgrace of poverty at home and abroad, a movement that can, incidentally, greatly enhance global moral leadership by the United States.

Anyone who thought, amid the initial euphoria of dizzying change starting in 1989, that the end of the cold war would usher in an idyllic age of global harmony and easy solutions, has long since been disabused of the notion. I confess to having indulged in some wishful thinking myself in the wake of these

extraordinary, unprecedented transformations. But, of course, every day we open our newspapers to dark headlines confirming that the world is still a very dangerous place — in some ways, more dangerous than before — and we are confronted with a host of old and new problems reaching crisis proportions. As they say, it is a tough world out there — and I would add, *in here, too.* An environmental crisis that threatens to add humans to the list of endangered species, the hard-to-comprehend hatreds and rivalries leading to the 'failing States' tragedy' in Somalia, former Yugoslavia and elsewhere, the mind-boggling problems of transition in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the unpayable African foreign debt, AIDS, hopelessness and desperation in Haiti, the astronomical U.S. deficit, racism, crime, drugs, the Los Angeles riots — it is difficult to enumerate all the seemingly intractable problems we face in today's world.

What all this hides, however, is that because of other recent developments the world is on the threshold of being able to make vastly greater progress on many long-standing issues than is generally recognized. I see some analogy here to what happened in the mid-1960s with regard to hunger in Asia. Old hands in the audience will recall the early 1960s' scientifically documented gloom-and-doom scenarios of population growth in Asia outrunning food supply, leading to projections of massive famine, chaos and global instability in the last third of this century. But then, quite suddenly, within years, there was the green revolution in Asia, extending from the Philippines to Turkey. Why then? The miracle wheat strains had been around for some 15 years. But it was only by the mid-1960s that the surrounding environment became propitious for rapid expansion, for going to national scale. Only by then, thanks in part to the Point 4 Programme, had fertilizer and pesticide use and controlled irrigation become widely practised and readily available, thanks in large part to earlier aid programmes. And, equally important, the combination of Asian drought and increasing awareness of the population explosion created the political will at the highest levels to drastically restructure price levels for grains and inputs, and to mobilize the several sectors of society required for success. President Lyndon Johnson's deep personal involvement remains a largely untold story. I would

argue that we are in a similar position today on a much broader front, encompassing basic education, primary health care, water supply and sanitation, family planning, and gender equity, as well as food production, and covering a much wider geographical area, which now includes Africa and Latin America, as well as Asia. But success requires increased top-level political will, particulariy from the United States.

If we can overcome the worst manifestations of poverty, we would be going a long way towards eradicating poverty itself, because frequent illness, malnutrition, poor growth, illiteracy, high birth rates and gender bias are not only *symptoms*, but also some of the most fundamental *causes* of poverty. Accomplishing this, we could anticipate — from the recent population experiences of such diverse societies as Sri Lanka, Kerala, Costa Rica, China and the Asian newly industrializing countries (NICs)— a far greater reduction in the rate of population growth than most now believe possible; we would be giving a major boost to the fragile new democracies that desperately need to provide some early measure of tangible improvement in the lives of the bottom half of their societies in order to survive; and we know from the experience of the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and the other Asian NICs that it would accelerate economic growth. By breaking what we could call the 'inner cycle' of poverty, we would strengthen the development process's necessary assault on the many *external* causes of poverty, rooted in such diverse factors as geography, climate, land tenure, debt, business cycles, governance, unjust economic relations and so on.

In short, there are few if any causes today more urgent, more deserving of priority treatment, than overcoming the worst aspects of poverty — poverty that contributes not only to vast human misery, but also to fuelling the global population explosion, environmental degradation, political unrest and economic stagnation. The World Bank estimates the number of people in poverty in 1990 at 1.13 billion, an increase of 80 million compared with 1985. That's about a fifth of the world's population living on less than a dollar a day. Even more discouraging, the Bank projects the number in poverty at the end of the century as 1.1 billion, no real improvement over today.

Meanwhile, the number of countries designated as

'least developed' by the United Nations went from 30 to 42 over the course of the 1980s. For most of Africa, Latin America and much of the Middle East, rising debt, declining commodity prices and tough retrenchment and adjustment policies have slowed growth and cut the pace of social progress attained in the 1960s and '70s. Although growth has resumed in much of the developing world over the past few years, the international economic climate and the biased structure of international relations continue to work against further progress. We are witnessing the increasing marginalization of the least developed countries, with sub-Saharan Africa as the most dramatic example.

At the same time, poverty has increased significantly in a number of industrialized countries over the past decade, most notably in the United States and the United Kingdom and, of course, in the transitional countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. What is particularly galling about this development in the United States and the United Kingdom is that poverty worsened during the relative prosperity of those countries in the 1980s. Poverty worsened, and there was — not coincidentally — a radical upward redistribution of wealth, making the very wealthy few very much wealthier. And children bore the brunt of it. One in five American children are poor today — as Marian Wright Edelman reminds us, this is the highest level of child poverty in a quarter-century in the world's richest country. In both the United Kingdom and the United States, child poverty doubled over the past decade.

A world of difference may separate inner-city Los Angeles, Mogadiscio and the new poor of Moscow, but it is not difficult to see that many of the distinctions will surely seem irrelevant to the hungry, deprived and frustrated in all three places. If we continue to turn our backs on the plight of the poor, or ask them to wait patiently for better days, we will reap a whirlwind for all humankind — a political, economic and environmental whirlwind that will shake even the prosperous and long-time democracies to their foundations and condemn us to a new international order of permanent conflict and instability.

What is it, you can reasonably ask, that makes the present such a ripe time for achieving historically unprecedented progress in overcoming so many of the

worst symptoms of poverty? What is it that makes the mid-1990s so analogous, with respect to these symptoms, to the green revolution breakthrough of the mid-to-late 1960s? It is, as I noted earlier, the parallel evolution of recent scientific and technological advances, and of the revolutionary new capacity to communicate and mobilize large numbers of people, which now enables national and world leaders to produce dramatic results when these various resources are combined and problems are addressed in a multisectoral fashion.

We see this clearly demonstrated in the universal child immunization (UCI) effort, which, since the mid-1980s, in the largest peace-time collaborative effort in world history, has established a system that now reaches virtually every hamlet in the developing world and is saving the lives of some 10,000 children a day — more than 3 million a year. There, too, the vaccines had been available for some 15-30 years. It was applying the new techniques of communicating and mobilizing to the immunization effort, often personally led by heads of State and Government and involving millions of television and radio spots, schoolteachers, priests and imams, local government officials, NGO workers as well as health personnel, which has resulted, by 1990, in more than 80 per cent of all children in the developing world being brought in four to five times for vaccinations before even their first birthday. As a result of these pioneering new multisectoral techniques built on the earlier green revolution experience in Asia, today Calcutta, Lagos and Mexico City have far higher levels of immunization at ages one and two than New York City, Washington, D.C. or the United States as a whole.

A similar process is now under way with respect to oral rehydration therapy (ORT) against the single greatest historical killer of children — dehydration from diarrhoea. ORT was invented in 1969, but it was only as the new techniques of communications and organization were mobilized by national leaders that this life-saver has gone to national scale and is now saving the lives of more than 1 million children per year, a figure that could easily more than double by 1995 with increased national and international leadership.

Our arsenal is now well stocked with new technologies and rediscovered practices that can be simi-

larly put to scale with inspired leadership and modest additional financial resources. Thus, the simple iodization of salt would remove the single largest cause of mental retardation in the world: the iodine deficiency that cripples many millions annually. The universalization of vitamin A through capsules or vegetables would remove the single largest cause of blindness in the world. The scientific rediscovery of the miracles of mother's milk means that we now know that more than 1 million children would not have died last year if only they had been effectively breastfed for the first months of their lives. We are learning from such diverse countries as Bangladesh, Colombia and Zimbabwe that it is possible to have virtually all poor children, including girls in particular, complete primary education at very low cost. Recent advances have shown how to halve the costs of bringing safe water and sanitation to poor communities, to less than US$30 per capita.

Our new capacity to communicate — to inform and motivate — enables us to empower families, communities and governments to give the first vulnerable months and years of a child's life something of the protection and nurturing that is given as a matter of course to our children fortunate enough to be born into affluence. We are learning how to 'outsmart' poverty at the outset of each new life. And it is strong national leadership and international cooperation that can make the difference between slow and dramatic progress.

A revolution has started in the developing world with respect to children. This is manifested by the fact that developing country leaders took a major lead in seeking history's first truly global summit — the World Summit for Children in 1990 — and in pressing for early action on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the General Assembly in November 1989 and has been signed or become the law of the land in record time in more than 150 countries, with the United States now being the only major exception.

Leaders throughout the developing world are learning that there are good things which can be done for families and children at relatively low cost, if only they provide leadership, and that it can be good politics for them to do so. More than 130 countries are actively

working on national programmes of action (NPAs) to follow up on goals set by the World Summit for Children, all of which were incorporated into Agenda 21 at the Earth Summit in Rio last summer. More than half of these programmes, some 80, have been completed to date, and others are expected shortly, including the United States NPA, due later this week. Regional ministerial-level meetings have been held in recent months in Latin America, South Asia and Africa, as well as the Arab world, on collaborative follow-up to accomplish these goals, whose achievement would result in a historic overcoming of many of the worst symptoms of poverty in this decade.

Our own experience in UNICEF shows that it was possible — even during the darkest days of the cold war and the 1980s' 'lost decade of development' — to mobilize societies and the international community around such 'doables' as I have mentioned, building a sustainable momentum of human progress. We called it the child survival and development revolution, and as a result more than 20 million children are alive today who would not otherwise be, and tens of millions are healthier, stronger and less of a burden upon their mothers and families. If it was possible to make significant gains then, vastly greater progress should be possible now. It should be possible to leverage the ongoing revolution in the name of children and women into a global movement capable of dealing a death blow to many of poverty's worst manifestations during the 1990s.

This, then, is the playing-field on which we find ourselves today. I'd say, in baseball terminology, that the bases are loaded and the United States has an opportunity to knock in at least a few runs, if it acts expeditiously in coming months.

A week from tomorrow, the first wholly post-cold war Administration will take office in the United States, and it comes in with a public mandate for change during this time of great challenge and opportunity. As I mentioned earlier, the United States has in the past decade been retrogressing or stagnating in many areas of children's well-being, while much of the developing world has been making impressive progress. All that has been accomplished globally has been done, frankly, with little active U.S. leadership, except from a bipartisan Congress. Now think of what could be accom-

plished if both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue were to exercise, together, the kind of leadership that is needed and take the initiatives on this front that go to the heart of the effort to eradicate poverty. By increasing investment in American children and strengthening American families, and by reordering foreign assistance to reflect this new priority, the United States, the world's sole superpower, would once more set the global standard and give a major boost to human development and economic growth at home and abroad.

The outgoing Administration, to its credit, has recently taken a bold initiative in Somalia, blazing a historic trail that the new Administration will certainly have an opportunity to explore and further develop for the world. For those of us who carried the banner for the right to food for many years, it is especially gratifying to see the international community, led by the United States, enforcing this right in Somalia for solely humanitarian purposes. It has occurred, of course, in response to a situation of massive retrogression and brutality, and it remains to be seen what this intervention will ultimately mean in terms of the world's tolerance levels towards the 'silent emergencies' that take the lives of 13 million children a year in the developing countries. I would like to believe we are entering a new era of humanitarian concern, of renewed commitment to human development, to children and women, to the human core of the development process.

What can the United States do, right away, to help lead the way? Many things, but I will list a few thoughts that relate most directly to the themes you will be addressing over the next two days:

- **The Convention on the Rights of the Child.** Few actions would have more immediate impact or symbolic weight than the President's signing this historic 'Bill of Rights' for the world's young *early in 1993*. The President's signature of the Convention and its speedy submission to the Senate for ratification (as has been urged by bipartisan leadership) would send an important message to the world.
- Second, **the United States' national programme of action to implement the commitments made at the World Summit for Children**. To be issued this week, this plan to achieve the commendable goals set by the World Summit, which apply to children of

developing and industrial countries alike, could provide a useful base for initiating bipartisan actions. I trust that the much-needed reordering of priorities for children, women and families will proceed without delay.

- Third, **we need 20/20 vision**. I am referring to the call issued two years ago by the United Nations Development Programme: first, for developing countries to devote at least 20 per cent of their budgets to directly meeting the priority human needs of their people (they are devoting little more than 10 per cent today) and second, for 20 per cent of all international aid for development to directly support those priority areas of human need: primary health care, nutrition, basic education, family planning, and safe water and sanitation. On average, less than 10 per cent of already inadequate levels of ODA are devoted to that purpose today. Norway leads the industrialized countries with 19.7 per cent and Germany brings up the rear with only 1.9 per cent of ODA going to these priority areas. The United States is in the middle, at 8.3 per cent, or US$695 million, for these areas. This latter figure would have to be increased by US$1 billion in order to reach the recommended 20 per cent mark. This could be accomplished by fiscal year 1994 by restructuring current flows. As I mentioned earlier, US$2 billion is the projected American share of the extra US$25 billion yearly that will be required globally by mid-decade to meet the World Summit year 2000 goals — a small price to pay for saving some 50 million lives and moving into a leadership role on the cutting edge issues of our time.

- Fourth, **African debt**. The new spirit of democratic change and economic reform moving in Africa today simply cannot long survive the financial haemorrhage of paying an average *US$1 billion* in debt service to foreign creditors *every month* for over a decade. Sub-Saharan Africa's debt is now proportionally three to four times heavier than Latin America's debt. As the economist Percy S. Mistry recently wrote: "Debt initiatives for middle-income countries have finally begun to make a difference....BUT the debt initiatives aimed at the low-income countries (mainly in Africa) have not made a sufficient dent in their debt problems; these continue to mount and are being obscured only by the expedient but damaging accu-

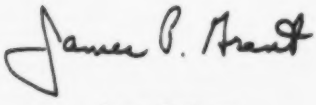
mulation of arrears. The measures taken so far by creditors for African low-income countries have been inadequate, invariably too late, and need to be substantially strengthened." At the recent International Conference on Assistance to African Children sponsored by the Organization of African Unity, in Dakar, donor countries and lending agencies pledged to do more to promote debt relief and cancellation, while making an effort to expand ODA, in support of actions directed at child survival, protection and development. Here again, the United States could help lead the way to a solution to the African crisis. Why not have this summer's G-7 Summit definitively address African debt, with much of the local currency proceeds going to accelerate programmes for children, women and the environment? With the right mix of domestic and international support, and with apartheid ending in South Africa, we could see a burst of human development leading to dramatic progress in most of Africa by the year 2000. I am convinced that this could include a food revolution every bit as green as Asia's, but significant debt relief will be needed in addition to top leadership, so that African countries can acquire the fertilizers, pesticides, pumps and other inputs they urgently need to get it going.

- Fifth, **actively supporting multilateral cooperation**. With human development and poverty alleviation increasingly accepted rhetorically as the cutting edge for development cooperation in the 1990s, the United States has a major opportunity in the months and years immediately ahead to transform rhetoric into reality. Active U.S. support and leadership along these lines in the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the regional banks, and throughout the United Nations system, including the prospective landmark conferences on human rights in 1993, on population in 1994, and on women and on social development in 1995, will go a long way towards assuring success in this historic effort to overcome, in our time, the worst aspects of poverty in the South, where it is most acute, as well as in the North and in the transitional societies of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

- Sixth, and finally, **strengthening the commitment to the United Nations**. Restoration of U.S. funding for the United Nations Population Fund and

a return to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization would not only give an important boost to family planning and global education, but, together with full payment of its arrears, it would signal solid, long-term United States' commitment to the United Nations as the global village's central vehicle for development cooperation and safeguarding the peace.

Thank you for hearing me out today and for putting up with my list of friendly provocations. I am certain that we are on the same wavelength and that this conference will make the kind of waves these times demand. Success in overcoming the worst aspects of poverty will not solve all the world's problems but it would make an historic contribution to the better world we all seek. As I said before, the bases are loaded. History is inviting the U.S. to bat, and why shouldn't Americans aspire for the United States to be Babe Ruth and hit a grand slam!



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11 January 1993

WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN: GOALS FOR CHILDREN AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE 1990s

The following goals have been formulated through extensive consultation in various international forums attended by virtually all governments, the relevant United Nations agencies, including the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, and a large number of NGOs. These goals are recommended for implementation by all countries where they are applicable, with appropriate adaptation to the specific situation of each country in terms of phasing, standards, priorities and availability of resources, with respect for cultural, religious and social traditions. Additional goals that are particularly relevant to a country's specific situation should be added to its national programme of action.

I. MAJOR GOALS FOR CHILD SURVIVAL, DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION

(a) Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of infant and under-five child mortality rates by one third or to 50 and 70 per 1,000 live births respectively, whichever is less.

(b) Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of maternal mortality rates by half.

(c) Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among under-five children by half.

(d) Universal access to safe drinking water and to sanitary means of excreta disposal.

(e) By the year 2000, universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school age children.

(f) Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate (the appropriate age-group to be determined in each country) to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on female literacy.

(g) Improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances.

II. SUPPORTING/SECTORAL GOALS

A. Women's health and education

(i) Special attention to the health and nutrition of the female child and to pregnant and lactating women.

(ii) Access by all couples to information and services to prevent pregnancies that are too early, too closely spaced, too late or too many.

(iii) Access by all pregnant women to prenatal care, trained attendants during childbirth and referral facilities for high-risk pregnancies and obstetric emergencies.

(iv) Universal access to primary education with special emphasis for girls and accelerated literacy programmes for women.

B. Nutrition

(i) Reduction in severe as well as moderate malnutrition among under-five children by half of 1990 levels.

(ii) Reduction of the rate of low birth weight (less than 2.5 kg) to less than 10 per cent.

(iii) Reduction of iron deficiency anaemia in women by one third of the 1990 levels.

(iv) Virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders.

(v) Virtual elimination of vitamin A deficiency and its consequences, including blindness.

(vi) Empowerment of all women to breastfeed their children exclusively for four to six months and to continue breastfeeding, with complementary food, well into the second year.

(vii) Growth promotion and its regular monitoring to be institutionalized in all countries by the end of the 1990s.

(viii) Dissemination of knowledge and supporting services to increase food production to ensure household food security.

C. Child health

(i) Global eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2000.

(ii) Elimination of neonatal tetanus by 1995.

(iii) Reduction by 95 per cent in measles deaths and reduction by 90 per cent of measles cases compared to pre-immunization levels by 1995, as a major step to the global eradication of measles in the longer run.

(iv) Maintenance of a high level of immunization coverage (at least 90 per cent of children under one year of age by the year 2000) against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis and against tetanus for women of child-bearing age.

(v) Reduction by 50 per cent in the deaths due to

diarrhoea in children under the age of five years and 25 per cent reduction in the diarrhoea incidence rate.

(vi) Reduction by one third in the deaths due to acute respiratory infections in children under five years.

D. Water and sanitation

(i) Universal access to safe drinking water.

(ii) Universal access to sanitary means of excreta disposal.

(iii) Elimination of guinea worm disease (dracunculiasis) by the year 2000.

E. Basic education

(i) Expansion of early childhood development activities, including appropriate low-cost family- and community-based interventions.

(ii) Universal access to basic education, and achievement of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school age children through formal schooling or non-formal education of comparable learning standard, with emphasis on reducing the current disparities between boys and girls.

(iii) Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate (the appropriate age-group to be determined in each country) to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on female literacy.

(iv) Increased acquisition by individuals and families of the knowledge, skills and values required for better living, made available through all educational channels, including the mass media, other forms of modern and traditional communication and social action, with effectiveness measured in terms of behavioural change.

F. Children in difficult circumstances

Improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances and correction of the root causes leading to such situations.